

### **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

Protein binding assays are provided for determining  $\text{IP}_3$  in a sample employing as reagents a conjugate of  $\text{IP}_3$  joined at the 2-oxy through a bond or linking group to a detectable label and a truncated portion of the extracellular fragment of an  $\text{IP}_3\text{R}$ . The reagents are combined with the sample and the amount of  $\text{IP}_3$  determined by means of the detectable label. The conjugate with the enzyme donor fragment of  $\beta$ -galactosidase or a fluorescer is specifically described.